

BULLETIN of TEMPLE NEWS

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— From —

RABBI STEINBERG

It is with a sense of special privilege that I communicate through this Bulletin a word of greeting to you wherever you may be. We think of you constantly. That is as might be expected. What has gratified me beyond words is to learn how often and warmly you in the armed services think of the Synagogue and its people.

Just today two letters came to me. One was from a boy who is serving with the 34th Division in Italy. He writes, "No doubt you will be surprised to hear from me. Yet, even though I neglected answering your letter of over a year ago, my thoughts have often turned toward you and the Park Avenue Synagogue." The other communication comes from the parents of another boy of ours who, as gunner in a bomber has made many flights over Europe, and won a number of decorations. They write of their son that "some two weeks ago he wrote how much he appreciated a bulletin sent to him by the Synagogue and exclaimed, 'Gee, it was swell to hear about some of the boys!'"

It is my hope that this issue of the Bulletin may strengthen the ties that reach from 50 East 87th Street all over the world to wherever you are stationed so that when peace comes again we may once more take up our lives together where war interrupted.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Milton Steinberg

TEMPLE NEWS

Two events of outstanding importance made this Temple season one of the most significant that has ever been enjoyed by our membership in recent years. In the order of their occurrence, they were, the donation of a service flag by the Sisterhood, and the Testimonial dinner given in honor of Rabbi Milton Steinberg and Cantor David Putterman to celebrate "Ten Years of Achievement."

The massing of the colors was a most impressive and touching ceremony. As one entered the Synagogue one was made immediately aware of the huge service flag that hung in the background. The new, clean white field, the crimson border and the one large blue star in the center with the rather staggering numerals 230, embroidered close to it.

Milton Weill officially opened the service. He spoke nostalgically of those of you who because of the call of duty, could not be present, and in whose honor the flag was to be flown. He said that he felt that the Temple, in dedicating the flag, was dedicating itself anew to those never too oft quoted principles of Freedom and Democracy for which we do battle today. Mr. Weill was followed by Mrs. Milton Heller who introduced the Minton Group, and led a round of applause for the young negro serviceman who was about to conduct them.

A boy scout then entered, bearing the British Union Jack and the choir and organ joined in the strains of God Save the King. The procession continued, as one by one, boy and girl scout members of the Synagogue entered, each carrying the colors representing a different member of the Allied Nations. As each new flag appeared in turn, it was magnificently

accompanied by the choir singing the national anthem of the colors represented.

The ceremony was rounded off by Mr. Milton Weill, who, in his speech mentioned that two of our boys have been cited for their deeds of valor in the line of duty. They were Staff Sergeant Arthur Weil and Staff Sergeant Myron Mendel both of whom received several oak-leaf clusters. S/ Sergeant Mendel had at that time completed twenty-five missions as a tail gunner in the A.A.C. Mr. Weill spoke of his and the entire Congregation's immeasurable pride in these boys, and in all of our men in service and expressed the hope that before too long they would be back with us again. The Sisterhood acted as gracious hostesses and served refreshments in the vestry rooms.

The crowning event of the season was the Testimonial Dinner, which was held at the Sert Room of the Waldorf Astoria on the 23rd of April. A huge crowd of members and friends of the Park Avenue Synagogue were present to honor Rabbi Milton Steinberg and Cantor David Putterman on their Tenth Anniversary of leadership in the Synagogue. Great tribute was paid to both our spiritual leaders who deservedly received a tremendous ovation. A spirit of good will and happiness pervaded the atmosphere.

Mr. Milton Weill, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees gave both a humorous and glowing report of the Ten Years in Retrospect. The listeners were amazed to hear that during that period the Temple membership has increased from a little over 100 families to 425 families — with further growth limited only because of inadequate facilities. The Sunday

